

OCA 2856-88

OCA FILE

HASC

5 August 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: [REDACTED]

Chief, Regional Issues Group, DI/SOVA

SUBJECT: Discussion with Mr. John Tillson

1. On 29 July 1988, Mr. John Tillson of the staff of the House Armed Services Committee (formerly of the Office of the Secretary of Defense) called to make an appointment at 0900 hours on 2 August with [REDACTED] Chief of the Regional Issues Group, DI/SOVA, to discuss "Soviet Readiness." [REDACTED] was on leave on 29 July. [REDACTED] Secretary, called Mr. Tillson's office to suggest a more convenient time and to inform him that he would have to request the appointment through the Office of Congressional Affairs. [REDACTED] also called OCA to inform them of the contact and alert them to the forthcoming request.

2. The meeting with Mr. Tillson was held from 1100 to 1200 hours on 2 August. CIA officers present included Mr. [REDACTED], SOVA/RIG; and [REDACTED] OCA.

3. Mr. Tillson stated that the Committee planned to hold hearings beginning on 5 September on topics related to Soviet arms control proposals. As part of these hearings, the Committee plans to request testimony on CIA (SOVA) assessments of :

- Soviet readiness and force posture (readiness, manning levels, training, mobilization for attacks of various sizes).
- Detection, analysis, and reporting of Soviet mobilization for war (deliberate and hasty).
- Soviet view on the outbreak of war with NATO and on US and NATO strategy.

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4. [] stated that SOVA can give assessments in response to these questions and suggested that some time after early November would be a preferred time for SOVA to respond to a request from the Committee. Mr. Tillson responded that the Committee would be requesting to travel to the USSR and Eastern Europe in November and would prefer to have SOVA's testimony prior to this trip. A principal aim of the request for CIA views is to prepare the Members for the trip. Mr. Tillson stated that, especially because of the trip, there would be high interest among the Members in hearing SOVA's views. Mr. Tillson also invited suggestions for profitable sites for the Committee to visit on its trip.

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5. Mr. Tillson inquired about who would testify in response to a request for CIA's views on the topics listed above. [] stated that it would likely be the DDI, D/SOVA, or C/SOVA/RIG, but that this would not be determined until a written request was received. [] gave Mr. Tillson information on framing and sending the Committee's request to OCA.

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cc: OCA

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